



The Keweenaw Peninsula of Upper Michigan was home to the world’s most abundant deposits of pure, elemental copper. It was also home to the pioneers who met the challenges of nature and technology to coax it from the ground and provide the raw material that spurred the American Industrial Revolution.

During the late 1800s the American Dream was sought by thousands and found by few on the Keweenaw, much like the rest of America. Working class immigrants from around the world came to this copper region to improve their lives, and in doing so, helped transform a young and growing nation into a global powerhouse.

The Rush for Copper

Reports in 1843 of enormous copper deposits on the Keweenaw Peninsula spawned one of our nation’s earliest mining rushes, preceding the famed California gold rush by six years. After a tidal wave of individual fortune seekers, entrepreneurs arrived to direct an ordered extraction of the valuable mineral. From their efforts came a complex system of mining, processing, smelting, and transporting copper that helped stimulate the growth of industrial America.

By 1849, the Copper Country provided 85 percent of the entire United States copper production; from 1845 to 1887 it represented the largest copper-producing region in the United States; from 1845 to 1967, the area’s copper mines produced 11 billion pounds of copper. At one time, the district contained some of the deepest mine shafts in the world.

The copper companies became known worldwide as leaders in modern, scientific mining technology. Keweenaw copper even affected the outcome of the Civil War by providing the Union with an important strategic advantage in the manufacture of arms and war material.

The copper industry had significance far beyond mere statistics by dominating the lives of most people on the peninsula. Lured by numerous skilled and unskilled job opportunities, immigrants poured into the area between 1843 and 1914. Not only did they provide an ample pool of labor, but their varied languages, dress, politics, and religions created a vibrant culture. At one time, at least 38 different ethnic groups lived in the Calumet and Hancock areas.

People found common interests in their dreams of a better life, fueled by a sense of optimism and a persistent desire to succeed. Their struggle to adapt to profound economic and social changes provided a stirring illustration of the resiliency of the human spirit.

The Calumet and Hecla (C&H) Mining Company benefitted from its highly efficient management of both people and natural resources to transform copper ore into vital products that spurred industrial innovation and expansion.



By the late 1800s the company enjoyed a reputation as one of the nation’s best-known business enterprises. Between 1867 and 1884, it produced one-half of the country’s copper. The company’s directors and stockholders in the East enjoyed high profits and dividends.

The Quincy Mining Company, north of Portage Lake, and Copper Range to the south, were the other major companies. As the need for efficiency and profitability increased, numerous smaller, marginally successful companies were absorbed by C&H, Quincy, and Copper Range.

The mining district’s development mirrored nationwide trends during the Industrial Revolution in the late nineteenth century. Elite business leaders consolidated economic power while a managerial class arose to

direct more and more complex industrial technologies. The working class, however, grew restless under an increasingly impersonal style of management and supervision. The copper companies felt that their paternalistic treatment of workers represented a new age of enlightened capitalism, but the men in the mines and mills resented the long hours, dangerous working conditions, and meager pay scales.

As work rules tightened to maintain company profits, the workers’ anger boiled over into a violent strike in 1913. Miners and their families endured severe hardship and tragedy. The end of the strike



reaffirmed the companies’ domination over the workers. A pall of bitterness, resentment, and social polarization descended upon the mining district. To make matters worse in the following years, local mines became less profitable compared to other copper districts. Mining operations fell into a gradual decline until another strike in 1967 ended copper production on the peninsula.

Today, the Keweenaw Peninsula still contains many tangible connections to the copper industry and the people who made it so successful. Enjoy the legacy of the diverse ethnic groups. Discover the rich industrial and social heritage of the area. Observe remnants of the copper companies. Think about the enduring hope of a better tomorrow that attracted industrial managers, supervisors, and workers to this remarkable land.

The Keweenaw Comes Full Circle

Today, Calumet and the former Quincy Mining Company property north of Hancock retain the signature of copper’s heyday between 1860 and 1920. Vignettes of a bygone era, Calumet and Quincy provide snapshots in time of how the newly industrialized America looked and felt. The streets and structures of copper country preserve the stories of an immigrant community who sought opportunity in America.

The Keweenaw’s history illustrates the progression from a craftwork-based community to that of supervised wage work, and the struggle for dignity between management and labor. Its remote location provides a concentrated, nearly undisturbed, view of the birth of an industrialized society. The remaining historic landscapes and structures—industrial, commercial, and residential—provide a reflection of the society established during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries on the Keweenaw.

Preserving this legacy has been a challenge. During the 1970s and 80s, in a fit of “urban renewal,” many of the Keweenaw’s historic buildings were razed. Citizens determined to salvage the area’s history and its vestiges worked in concerted partnership to halt the destruction. Efforts were begun to place significant buildings and districts on the National Register of Historic Places. The Calumet National Historic Landmark District and the Quincy Mining Company National Historic Landmark District were designated in 1989. Local historical societies acted with new resolve.

Congress established Keweenaw National Historical Park in 1992, directing it to be operated on a partnership premise. Thus, the park preserves and interprets the area’s copper mining history in conjunction with seventeen Cooperating Sites located throughout the Copper Country. Through this unique collaboration, the industrial history of the Keweenaw will be preserved for the education and enjoyment of future generations.



C&H Mining Company General Office Building

From 1888 to 1968 the top administrators of the powerful C&H Mining Company made decisions under this roof that influenced mining technology, engineering, and labor worldwide. Located in Calumet, the building was rededicated in 2002, and now serves as headquarters for Keweenaw National Historical Park.



C & H Public Library

Built in 1898 by the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, this finely crafted stone and brick structure originally housed 45,000 volumes in addition to offering bathing facilities in the basement. The park’s extensive archival collection is now stored here. In the future, the library will be home to the new Keweenaw History Center.



Calumet Theatre

The original Calumet Town Hall, built in 1886, was expanded in 1899 to include a theater seating 1,200. The theater hosted performances by the likes of Lillian Russell, John Phillip Sousa, Douglas Fairbanks, and Jason Robards. The Calumet Theatre Company presents from 60 to 80 events annually including theater, symphonies, folk music, jazz, and community events.



Fifth Street

This narrow, brick-lined street runs through the heart of the Calumet Historic District. A bustling epicenter of daily life and commerce for the mining community at the turn of the nineteenth century, Fifth Street now benefits from historic preservation efforts made by the local merchants, village officials, and the National Park Service.



Quincy Pay Office

At the turn of the century, administrators of the highly successful Quincy Mining Company occupied this stately Jacobsville sandstone building. Today, National Park Service employees share office space with private sector enterprises.



Union Building

Fraternal organizations, such as the Free Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, shared space in this building with bankers, postal officials, and merchants. This building melded social functions and community life for miners and their families. The National Park Service plans to rehabilitate the Union Building and interpret this rich array of history.



Quincy Mining Company No. 2 Shafthouse

Originally a wooden structure built in 1894, the steel frame of the No. 2 Shafthouse was erected in 1908. It still stands tall on Quincy Hill, one of very few remaining examples of the engineering feats of copper mining. Tours offered by the Quincy Mine Hoist Association include a surface tour of the shafthouse and underground mine tours.

Planning Your Visit

Keweenaw National Historical Park is part of the National Park System—which includes over 380 areas and preserves our nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage. At the present time Keweenaw National Historical Park does not have visitor facilities that are operated by the National Park Service.

The Keweenaw Tourism Council is currently acting as the travel information office for Keweenaw National Historical Park. Seventeen independently operated Cooperating Sites are scattered across 100 miles of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Please contact them directly for site-specific information.

Visitor information is available via the internet: www.nps.gov/kewe or by contacting Keweenaw National Historical Park, P.O. Box 471, Calumet, MI 49913-0471; (906) 337-3168. The Keweenaw Tourism Council, located on Shelden Avenue in downtown Houghton, can be reached at (906) 482-2388 and on U.S. 41 in Calumet, (906) 337-4579 or (800) 338-7982.

Private Property

Currently, only a portion of the property within the park’s boundaries is owned or operated by the National Park Service. Visitors, therefore, are asked to respect private property rights. Many important industrial buildings of the Quincy Mining Company and the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company are in declining physical condition. Entry into these buildings, without the consent of the owners, is illegal and may be very hazardous.

Fees

Each cooperating site manages its own admissions policy and fee structure. A daily or annual motor vehicle pass is required to enter Ft. Wilkins, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness and McLain State Parks.

Lodging & Camping

A full range of hotels, motels, bed and breakfast inns, public and privately operated cabin rentals, and campgrounds are found throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula. Contact the Keweenaw Tourism Council for details: (800) 338-7982.

Trails & Roads

Hiking and cross-country ski trails are available at Ft. Wilkins, McLain, and Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Parks. Extensive ski trails in the Porcupine Mountains are served by chairlifts for the downhill ski area. The Swedetown Ski Trails, adjacent to the Calumet area of Keweenaw National Historical Park, provide a section of lighted trails. Hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails also run through the Keweenaw Peninsula. During the summer, a number of these trails, and also lightly traveled rural roads, provide an excellent network for mountain and road bikes. A water trail for paddlers and small power craft is under development along Torch Lake and the Keweenaw Waterway. Good highways connect the Cooperating Sites, and provide a scenic overview of the natural and human history of the area. The Brockway Mountain Drive, near Copper Harbor, is consistently rated as one of the top scenic drives in the United States.

Reservations & Permits

Advance reservations are recommended for performances at the Calumet Theatre, although tickets may be available at the door. Tickets for the Quincy Mine tour often sell out during July and August. It is recommended that visitors obtain tickets early in the morning from the Quincy Mine Hoist Visitor Center and Gift Shop.

Reservations for modern campgrounds at Ft. Wilkins, McLain, and Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Parks may be made through state travel information: (800) 447-2757. Cabin rentals are available at McLain and Porcupine Mountains State Parks. Permits may be obtained for backcountry camping in the Porcupine Mountains.

Accessibility

Most of the Cooperating Sites are handicapped accessible, although chair users may require some assistance. Most restaurants are accessible, as are most hotels and motels. Detailed information may be obtained from the Keweenaw Tourism Council and the ADA Resource Network of the Keweenaw: (906) 482-4477.

Transportation

Daily air service is provided to the Houghton County Memorial Airport (CMX) by Northwest Airlin, (800) 225-2525. Charter bus service is available through Superior Coaches & Delivery of Houghton, (906) 487-6511. Inter-city bus service is provided by Greyhound Bus Lines, (800) 231-2222. Cab service is available in the Calumet, Hancock, and Houghton areas. Rental cars are available at the airport and from auto dealers. Excursion boats operate on the Keweenaw Waterway during the summer months.

Food and Supplies

A wide variety of restaurants, groceries, general merchandise, and specialty stores are found throughout the Keweenaw. Major commercial services are found in Calumet and the Houghton-Hancock areas.

Recommended Stay

Three days should be allowed to visit all of Keweenaw National Historical Park’s Cooperating Sites.

Health Care

Primary physician care, urgent care, and hospital emergency and acute care are available in the Calumet-Laurium area through Keweenaw Memorial Medical Center: (906) 337-6500; and in the Houghton-Hancock area through Portage Health System: (906) 483-1000. The Western Upper Peninsula Dialysis Center is located on the Portage Health System medical campus: (906)483-1720.

Regional Attractions

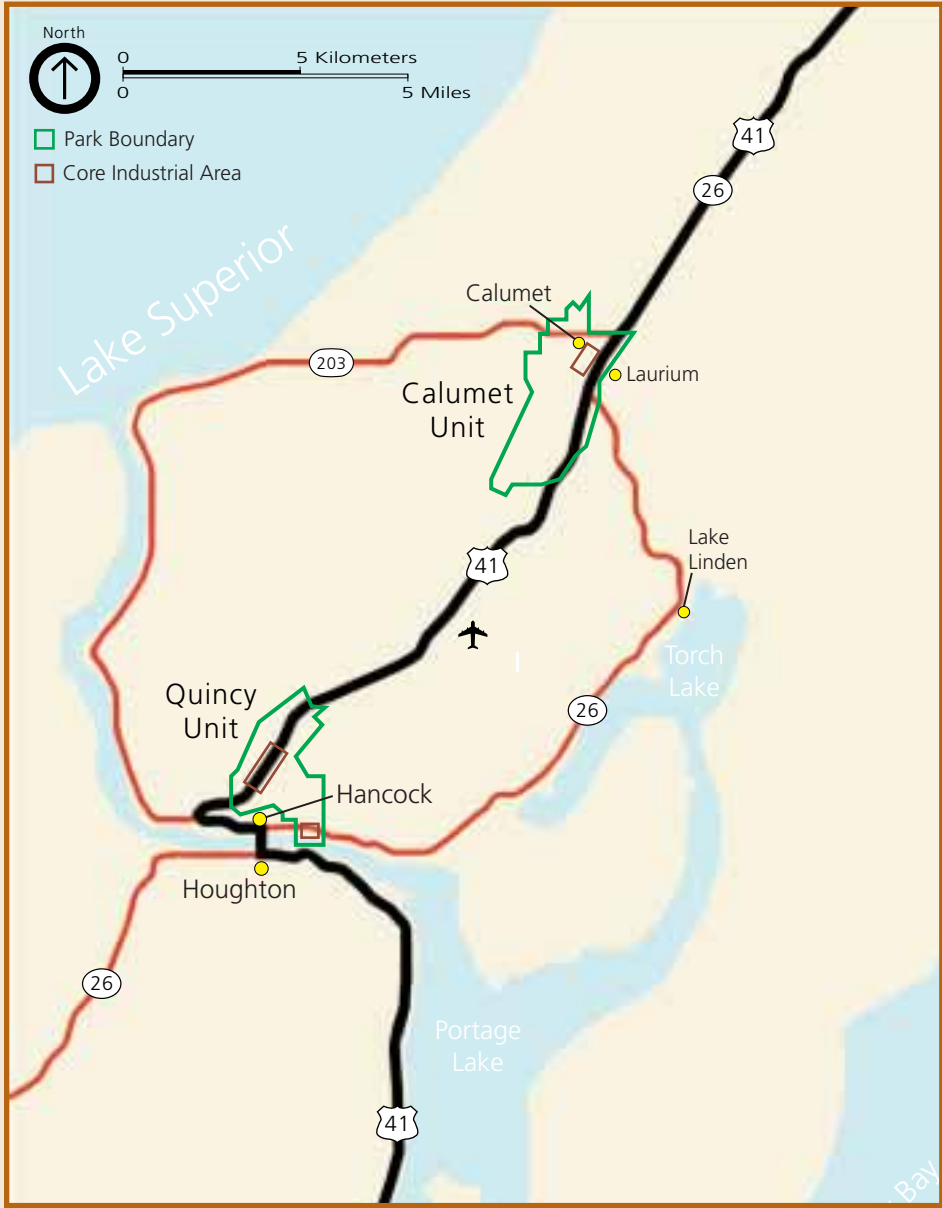
Houghton is the headquarters of Isle Royale National Park, an isolated wilderness island located about 50 miles north by water: (906) 482-0984. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is about three hours east: (906) 387-2607. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is about three hours west: (715) 779-3397. The Ottawa National Forest is just south of the Keweenaw Peninsula: (906) 932-1330.

Weather Conditions

Lake Superior controls the Keweenaw’s weather year-round. Early summer can be quite cool, especially near Lake Superior. By mid-summer, temperatures are usually mild, with daytime highs in the mid-to-upper-70s (F) with cool nights. September and October are normally quite mild. Autumn foliage colors peak from the last week of September through the first week of October. Brief, light snows may occur, but the temperature quickly rises, moderated by the waters of Lake Superior at their warmest annual level. True winter snows begin in mid-to-late-November; the ground is normally snowcovered from mid-November to mid-April. Lake Superior’s gradually cooling waters create an average annual snowfall which ranges from about 180 inches to 250 inches in different parts of the peninsula. While creating abundant snowfall, the relatively warm lake waters keep temperatures much milder than surrounding areas of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario. Spring is a beautiful but short-lived season on the Keweenaw.



Keweenaw National Historical Park: Two NPS Units & 17 Cooperating Sites



Keweenaw National Historical Park is comprised of two geographic units: the Quincy Unit and the Calumet Unit.

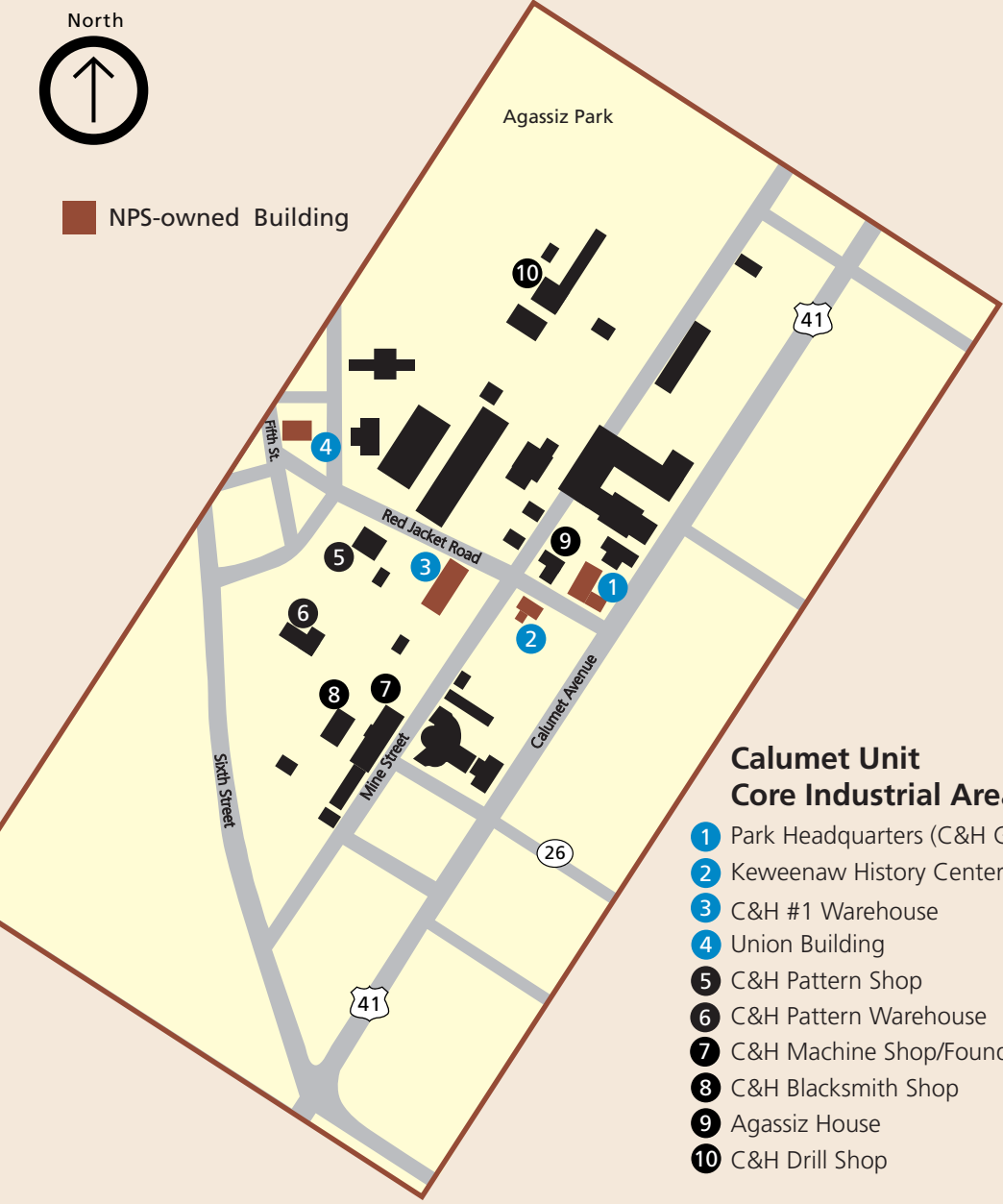
The Quincy Unit encompasses 1,120 acres and is located just northeast of the community of Hancock and adjacent to the Portage Lake waterway. This unit includes the remnant structures and mines of the Quincy Mining Company.

The Calumet Unit, located 11 miles north of the Quincy Unit, is 750 acres and includes the historic mining community of Calumet and the remnant structures, mine buildings, and associated historic landscape of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company.

The National Park Service owns several buildings designated as park facilities, however—unlike most national parks—individuals and groups continue to own and operate most of the properties in the park.

Seventeen cooperating sites are located on the Keweenaw Peninsula and offer interesting perspectives of the mining era. For more information about visiting these areas, contact the individual sites listed below.

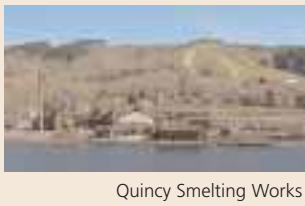
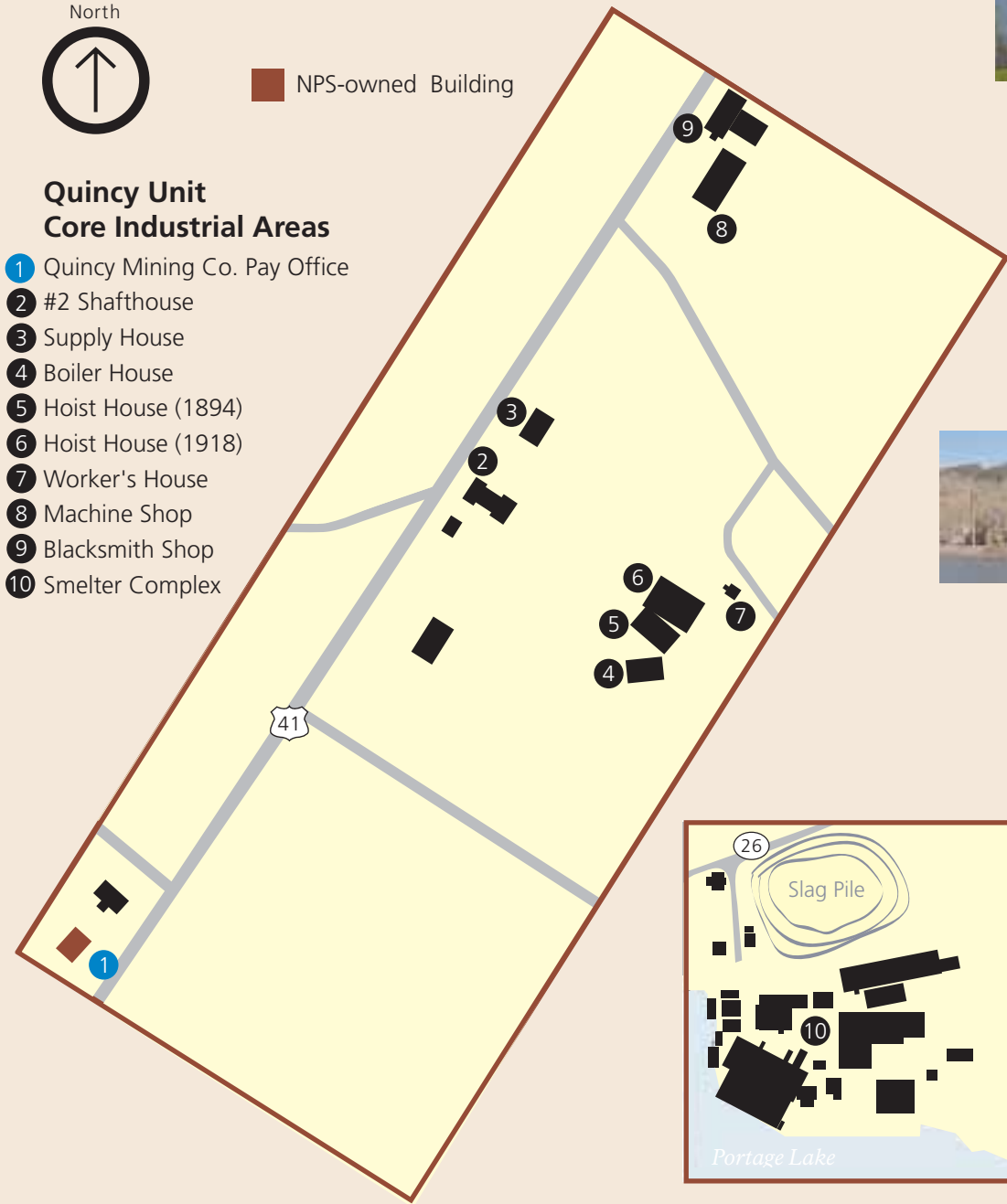
Calumet Unit



Calumet Unit Core Industrial Area

- 1 Park Headquarters (C&H General Office)
- 2 Keweenaw History Center (C&H Library)
- 3 C&H #1 Warehouse
- 4 Union Building
- 5 C&H Pattern Shop
- 6 C&H Pattern Warehouse
- 7 C&H Machine Shop/Foundry
- 8 C&H Blacksmith Shop
- 9 Agassiz House
- 10 C&H Drill Shop

Quincy Unit



A Partnership Park

The National Park Service works with local partners to preserve and interpret the resources within and adjacent to Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Park partners include:

- A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum
- Calumet, Laurium, and Keweenaw (CLK) School District
- Calumet Theatre
- Calumet Township
- City of Hancock
- Copper Range Historical Society
- Coppertown USA
- Delaware Copper Mine
- Finlandia University
- Fort Wilkins State Park
- Franklin Township
- Hanka Homestead
- Houghton County
- Houghton County Historical Society
- Keweenaw County
- Keweenaw County Historical Society
- Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's
- Keweenaw Tourism Council
- Laurium Manor Inn
- McLain State Park
- Michigan Technological University
- Old Victoria
- Osceola Township
- Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park
- Quincy Mine Hoist Association
- Quincy Township
- State of Michigan
- Upper Peninsula Firefighters Memorial Museum
- Village of Calumet

Cooperating Sites

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum—Houghton (906) 487-2572 | Hanka Homestead (906) 353-6239 | Laurium Manor Inn—Laurium (906) 337-2549 |
| Calumet Theatre—Calumet (906) 337-2610 | Houghton County Historical Museum—Lake Linden (906) 296-4121 | McLain State Park (906) 482-0278 |
| Copper Range Historical Museum—South Range (906) 482-6125 | Keweenaw County Historical Society—Eagle Harbor (906) 296-2561 | Old Victoria (906) 886-2617 |
| Coppertown USA—Calumet (906) 337-4354 | Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's—Calumet (906) 337-4579 | Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park (906) 885-5275 |
| Delaware Copper Mine (906) 289-4688 | Keweenaw Tourism Council—Calumet 906-337-4579 | Quincy Mine Hoist & Underground Mine—Hancock (906) 482-3101 |
| Fort Wilkins State Park—Copper Harbor (906) 289-4215 | Keweenaw Tourism Council—Houghton 906-482-2388 | U.P. Firefighters Memorial Museum—Calumet (906) 337-2575 |

